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(54) **Arm device for adjustable positioning of a medical instrument.**

(57) An instrument-supporting, articulated device has a distal end capable of supporting an instrument in the region of a surgical operating site. The device has at least one joint (15) that supports a movable distal support element (10) relative to a proximal support, the being joint associated with a mode selector. The joint has structure capable, upon selection of a first mode of operation by the selector, of enabling relatively free motion of the joint for achieving a desired position of the instrument and the joint

has structure capable, upon selection of a second mode of operation by the selector, to set the position of the instrument in space with lightly loaded restraint. The lightly loaded restraint is of a value that, while the second mode continues to be selected, the user may adjust the position of the instrument by application of a light force to the instrument and upon release of such light force by the user, the instrument will remain in the newly adjusted position.

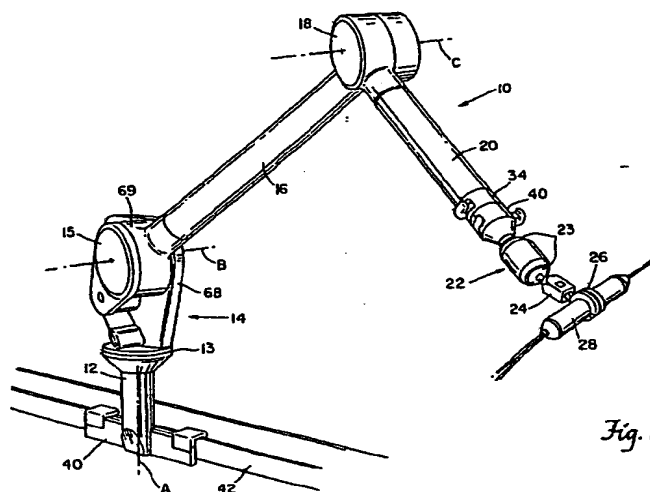


Fig. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 88 10 8411

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	US-A-4 548 373 (KOMURA) * claim 1; figure 1 *	1,18	A 61 B 19/00
A	US-A-4 345 847 (SCHIFF et al.) * claim 1; figures 1-3 *	1,18	
A	US-A-4 185 801 (PLYMOTH) * claim 1; figures 1-3 *	1,18	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			A 61 B F 16 M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Berlin		Date of completion of search 15 April 91	Examiner PAPA E.R.
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention</div> <div>E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div>			